[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1), (2) and (3) Government have received no report in the matter either from the Divisional Forest Officer or the Conservator of Forests.

(4) The Conservator of Forests says that no case of elephant-shooting by the registered holders of lands lying alongside the High Range road or by their servants has been reported.

Medical Examination of Retiring Officers.

175. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any particular person is appointed or asked to ascertain the physical fitness and other qualifications of retiring officers?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether officers are examined by a Medical Board before they are asked to retire or their service is extended?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) In cases where officers retire voluntarily after 25 years of service or are retired after attaining 55 years of age, no opinion is required or taken in regard to their physical fitness for further service or efficiency. When, however, officers apply for invalid pension, medical opinion is obtained in regard to their physical fitness. The rules regarding the conduct of medical examination in such cases are contained in Articles 290, 330 *f* and 330 *k* of the Service Regulations. The service of officers who have attained 55 years is not extended unless the sanctioning authority satisfies itself that the officers concerned are physically and mentally quite fit to discharge their duties.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): With respect to the latter portion of the answer, may I know whether the sanctioning authority satisfies itself that officers are physically fit to discharge their duties by medical examination?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No, not by medical examination.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Then, how do they know they are physically fit?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Because the officers under whom they work can see personally whether they are physically fit or not.

Excise Committee.

176. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why they did not allow the Council to elect the non-official members to the Excise Committee as was done with regard to other committees?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The appointment of members to committees is usually made by the Government on their own initiative, and sometimes on the recommendation of other bodies. In the case of the Excise Committee, the first course was adopted.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was there any particular reason in taking the course adopted by the Government?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then, what was the particular reason for adopting this course?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Two courses were open to the Government, and one of the courses was adopted. There was no particular reason why the other course was not adopted.

Claims of Mr. R. Gopala Menon for Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil's Place.

177. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether Mr. R. Gopala Menon, Sirkar Vakil, Parur, was an applicant for the Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil's place vacated by Mr. Bhaskara Menon? If so, why were his claims overlooked in filling this vacancy?

(*b*) How many years' service has Mr. Gopala Menon put in? What is his present pay?

(*c*) Is it not a fact that Mr. T. R. Raghunatha Aiyangar acted only for a short period as District Court Sirkar Vakil on Rs. 150 when Mr. Gopala Menon was drawing Rs. 250 as permanent Sirkar Vakil for several years?

(*d*) Is it a fact that, when the question of filling the vacancy of the Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil was taken up, the Head Sirkar Vakil, who was on leave, was consulted, and he declared that Mr. R. Gopala Menon was unfit for the vacant place?

(*e*) Has the Head Sirkar Vakil declared the inefficiency, if any, of Mr. R. Gopala Menon on any previous occasion?

(*f*) Has the Head Sirkar Vakil ever revised any written statement of Mr. R. Gopala Menon in Sirkar cases, and, if so, in which cases?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the person recently appointed as an Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil is a Travancorean, and whether there were not non-Brahmin Travancorean applicants for the place?

(*h*) Is it not a fact that Mr. R. Gopala Menon, Sirkar Vakil, Parur, is senior to Mr. A. Venkata Row, Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Mr. Gopala Menon was an applicant for the place and his case was duly considered in filling the vacancy.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly